

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FONSI No. NC-08-02

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

**Long-Term Water Transfer From the
Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District
to the Shasta Community Services District
Mid-Pacific Region**

Recommended:

Dr. Buford R. Holt
Environmental Specialist
Northern California Area Office

Date

Approved:

Brian Person
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office

Date

Concur:

Susan Fry
Regional Environmental Officer
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

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Background

The proposed action is the Bureau of Reclamation's approval, without further National Environmental Policy Act review, of annual transfers of up to 464 acre-feet of Central Valley Project water from the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) to the Shasta Community Services District (SCSD) during the period April through October of each water year, beginning with the 2008 water year and continuing through the 2044 water year. The transfers will be in accordance with Reclamation's current water transfer guidelines. The water will be made available in Shasta and Whiskeytown Lakes.

The SCSD will use the transferred water to meet existing and future needs for fire protection and domestic and commercial uses and to accommodate limited growth over the next two decades.

Findings

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Reclamation's Northern California Area Office, Mid-Pacific Region, has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the transfer of water from ACID to the Transferors during the period April through October, beginning with the 2008 water year and continuing through the 2044 water year.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the following:

1. The transfer will support limited growth anticipated within the SCSD, but not result in regional urban growth that would not otherwise occur because ample groundwater supplies are available between the cities of Redding and Cottonwood.
2. The transfer will not result in any new construction of diversion facilities because the existing diversion facilities can handle the additional water. Some change is to be expected in the distribution system as the anticipated slow growth of the SCSD occurs, but these limited changes will be addressed under California law as specific development projects are proposed.
3. The transfer will not cause any significant change in the flow in the Sacramento River or the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta because summer releases from Shasta Lake are generally driven by temperature control requirements for the upper 30 miles, which are substantially independent of water demands.

4. Affects on the cold water pool in Shasta Lake would be minimal.
5. Adverse effects on either listed or unlisted fish or wildlife and their critical habitat, cultural resources, unique geologic features, and Indian Trust Assets are not expected due to the lack of substantial changes in the volume or quality of releases and the absence of induced growth.
6. The transfer is consistent with Federal policies on Environmental Justice because all income levels will benefit equally.